

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/657,519

Examiner

JEFFREY A. SHAPIRO

Applicant(s)

BOTTAZZI ET AL.

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/4/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,5,8-19,21-37 and 39-62.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with H. Warren Burnam, Jr. on 5/8/09.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 61. (Currently Amended) A dispensing device of portable terminals having means for acquiring data relating to products to be purchased by customers in a shopping centre, comprising:

a plurality of cradles for a corresponding plurality of portable terminals to be withdrawn and used by the customers of the shopping centre for product data acquisition;

wherein all the cradles are housed in a substantially flat portion of a single housing;

means for identifying each customer enabled to use the portable terminals;

means for communicating to each identified customer, a corresponding terminal to be withdrawn among said plurality of terminals for the product data acquisition;

a data control and processing unit connected to the identifying means and the communicating means, said control unit carrying out the identification of the customer via means of said identification means, associating the corresponding terminal to the identified customer and communicating to the identified customer the corresponding terminal to be withdrawn by means of said communicating means;

and wherein said portion for housing said terminals comprises a body including a plurality of compartments constituting said plurality of terminal cradles, wherein each compartment of said plurality of compartments comprises:

a terminal inclined by a predetermined angle with respect to a vertical axis is defined, the opposed guiding walls defining opposed end walls of the terminal support element in a direction perpendicular to a terminal insertion direction;

wherein a support step for a lower end of the terminal extends from a first guiding wall of said opposed guiding walls, said support step being defined on a first surface, no surface oriented differently to the first surface being provided to connect the support step to the other guiding wall of said opposed guiding walls.

Claim 62. (Currently Amended) A dispenser of portable terminals, the portable terminals having means for acquiring data relating to products to be purchased by customers in a shopping centre, the dispenser comprising:

a dispenser housing;

a plurality of compartments for accommodating a corresponding plurality of portable terminals to be withdrawn and used by the customers of the shopping centre for product data acquisition, all the compartments being housed in a substantially flat portion of said housing;

means for identifying each customer enabled to use the portable terminals;

means for communicating to each identified customer, a corresponding terminal to be withdrawn among said plurality of terminals for the product data acquisition;

a data control and processing unit connected to the identifying means and the communicating means, said control unit carrying out the identification of the customer via means of said identification means, associating the corresponding terminal to the identified customer and communicating to the identified customer the corresponding terminal to be withdrawn by means of said communicating means;

wherein said portion for housing said terminals comprises a body including said plurality of compartments, and wherein each of said compartments extends longitudinally along a direction inclined by a predetermined angle with respect to said flat portion;

and wherein each of said compartments comprises:

a terminal support element comprising opposed guiding walls inclined by a predetermined angle with respect to a vertical axis, the opposed guiding walls

defining opposed end walls of the terminal support element in a direction perpendicular to a terminal insertion direction;
wherein a support step for a lower end of the terminal extends from a first guiding wall of said opposed guiding walls, said support step being defined on a first surface, no surface oriented differently to the first surface being provided to connect the support step to the other guiding wall of said opposed guiding walls.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. These comments are made in addition to the remarks in Applicant's specification and arguments, concerning the manner in which the invention distinguishes from the art discussed therein. The Examiner notes that the prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination including particularly a dispensing device of portable terminals having means for acquiring data relating to products purchased by customers in a shopping center/centre, having plural cradles for a corresponding plurality of portable terminals, the cradles housed in a substantially flat portion of a single housing, and wherein said portion for housing said terminals comprises a body including a plurality of compartments constituting said plurality of terminal cradles, wherein each compartment comprises a terminal inclined by a predetermined angle with respect to a vertical axis is defined, the opposed guiding walls defining opposed end walls of the terminal support element in a direction perpendicular to a terminal insertion direction, wherein a support step for a lower end of the terminal extends from a first guiding wall of said opposed guiding walls, said support step being defined on a first surface, no surface oriented

differently to the first surface being provided to connect the support step to the other guiding wall of said opposed guiding walls. The prior art lacks this structure or anything equivalent to it.

The foregoing is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY A. SHAPIRO whose telephone number is (571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey A. Shapiro/
Examiner, Art Unit 3653

May 8, 2009